

OGC Has Reviewed

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**OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT
CHARGES**

THREE YOUNG MEN FINED

Three men were found Guilty of offences under the Official Secrets Act at Aldershot yesterday, and were fined £50 each.

RICHARD OSCAR MACDEMITRIA, 20, of St. Leonards Gardens, Hove, was alleged to have attempted to communicate to John Stuart Webb, an unauthorized person, information which Macdemitria had had access to as a person holding office under the King; JOHN STUART WEBB, 20, of Victoria Road, Ruislip Manor, Middlesex, to have solicited such information; and ALAN MAXWELL GARDNER, 22, of Stradella Road, S.E., to have posted a letter preparatory to communicating information to Webb.

Mr. D. BARRY (prosecuting) stated that in November the chief security officer at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, found a letter in a desk. It was from Webb to Macdemitria, asking that any secret material which Macdemitria obtained should be sent to Webb. In the letter Webb, who was employed by the Society of British Aircraft Constructors, said he was not going to sell the information to Russia, but it was important that he should have it to use, either to criticize or to applaud the Government. In an alleged statement Webb said that Macdemitria had sent him details about types and numbers of aircraft leaving Blackbushe airfield.

Mr. Barry said that the prosecution was satisfied that there was nothing subversive in the case. The offences were "due to enthusiasm."

**CHARGES UNDER OFFICIAL
SECRETS ACT**

MR. THURTL (Shoreditch and Finsbury, Lab.) asked the Attorney-General if he could state the actual terms of the charge on which Mr. Glading was given six years' penal servitude.

SIR HARTLEY SHAWCROSS.—Glading pleaded guilty to five charges of obtaining plans and information for a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of the State, contrary to section 1 of the Official Secrets Act, 1911. The first charge related to the plan of a naval gun, the second to a part of an anti-tank mine pistol, the third to plans of an anti-submarine bomb fuse, the fourth to information contained in a book relating to explosives, and the fifth to four blue prints relating to a pressure apparatus.

Sir Hartley Shawcross, replying to further questions, said that in 1929 Mr. Glading was elected to the Communist Party's central committee, and he subsequently served as a member of the *Politburo* and the *Agitprop* department. In 1925 he went to India as an agent of the Communist International in Moscow, and after returning to England worked in close association with Mr. Pollitt. He later became a professional spy for the Soviet Union. It was difficult to state his exact position in the Communist hierarchy, but he was believed to occupy an important position. He was a British subject, and as far as was known was employed in the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

Security Information

Executive Officer, DD/A

18 December 1953

Office of General Counsel

Overseas Application of Existing Espionage Laws

25X1A

1. In the early part of December we were asked to comment upon proposed [REDACTED] entitled "Care and Use of Official Data." The concluding paragraph of this regulation prescribes that the Senior Representative or Chief of Mission shall be responsible for insuring that all personnel whose employment is processed overseas read and understand this regulation prior to entrance on duty and execute a secrecy agreement incorporating by reference the provision of the regulation.

2. As you know, the jurisdictional section of our present espionage legislation is section 791 of Title 18. This section provides that the entire chapter on espionage and censorship "shall apply within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States and on the high seas, as well as within the United States." The inference of this section to me is that the entire chapter containing our espionage laws does not apply in cases of espionage outside the United States and its admiralty jurisdiction, and would for this reason have no effect upon espionage or carelessness in the loss of defense information which occurred overseas and which involved one of our overseas employees. Since there did not appear to be anything legally wrong in the statement contained in the regulation, I made no comment upon the particular section. It does seem to me, however, that this is a point on which more adequate legislation could profitably be secured and I am referring it to you for whatever action you deem appropriate.

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Subject

Signer

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